



TUESDAY EVENING, DEC. 14, 1909.

The fight for existence is a problem which is causing anxiety to many who are watching the signs of the times. With the general level of commodity prices moving steadily and progressively upward, the cost of living is getting higher each month. Industrial activity and prosperity grow apace, but the purchasing power of the dollar shrinks as prices advance. President Taft felt called upon to speak of the high cost of living in his recent message to Congress, and he correctly pointed to the great increase in the money supply of gold as the prime cause. But conditions, not theories, are knocking at the door of every household and causing apprehension to all who are dependent upon their labor for a livelihood. Prices of the necessities of life have advanced eleven per cent. in one year. Notable advances in the last year have taken place in breadstuffs, provisions, livestock, hides and leather and textiles and the situation bears heavily upon many who realize that there is no likelihood of prices declining materially in the near future.

THE Washington Chamber of Commerce, after having labored in vain for some time to keep alive the smoking coals of the last retrocession blaz, has turned their attention to another chimera—the abolition of capital punishment in the District of Columbia. Should this recommendation be adopted, murders are sure to increase, as has been the case in other parts of the country where the death penalty has been abolished. In some states of the union legislators, swayed by the persuasions of philanthropists and others, have at times abolished capital punishment, but the increased number of brutal and horrid murders have forced them to return to the old law. Many well-meaning people in all communities are averse to executions for any offense, but their views have often been controverted by others who are equally as humanitarian, but who are convinced that human life would be unsafe were it not the fear of the gibbet. The first law ever given to the human race provided for the death of wilful murderers, and the history of the race shows its wisdom.

THE breaking of the prolonged drought which had caused trouble and much apprehension throughout a large area has been welcomed with delight. Notwithstanding the forecasts of the weather bureau and meteorological indications, but little rain had fallen in this vicinity for a long time. It had become necessary in some places to haul water, wells and springs having failed. Rain began to fall early Sunday night, and heavy downpours continued throughout yesterday and until some time after dark. The rain has not been local, only but there have been copious downpours over the drought belt of northern Virginia, the first of any consequence in six months. There is great rejoicing among the farmers in Shenandoah valley and elsewhere, as the wheat crop has been saved.

DR. CHARLES STEINLE, of the University of Chicago, delivered an address before the University of Pennsylvania students in Philadelphia on Sunday speaking on the topic "The Church Versus the Laboring Man." He said, in part: "Workingmen, particularly in our largest cities, love the Author of the Christian religion and hate the church. Why is this, if it is not for the failure of the church to make a place for the laborer in its economy? The church which has a fashion display every Sunday morning, and which raises its money by fashionable bazaars, will never appeal to the plain workingman, whose soul is just as priceless as that of the wealthy patron of the church. I have little sympathy with the maudlin sympathy of church people, which finds expression in elaborate resolutions and legislative probes and self-important investigating commissions."

WHILE President Taft was in New York last night he passed through the Bowery on his way to a hall in which he was scheduled to make a speech. On his way he had an opportunity of witnessing the "bread line," formed of hundreds of cold, hungry and homeless men and women each of whom was being furnished with a loaf of the staff of life. The Caliph Haroun Alraschid, were he told, often went through his city in disguise in order to get in touch with his subjects and study the short and simple annals of the poor. Mr. Taft, however, was in evening dress and escorted in an automobile which soon bore him to more cheerful scenes.

LEADERS of the republican insurgents came back to Washington claiming an increase of their clan to thirty-four in the House and fourteen in the Senate, and planning to hamper the Cannon-Aldrich regime at every turn. Of all this the regulars are disposed to make light, and the machinery has started off with every part well oiled. Cannon in the chair of the House and Aldrich well entrenched as leader on the floor of the Senate.]

The largest withdrawal of whisky from the Government warehouses was that of last fiscal year, amounting to 185,000,000 gallons. What share the march of prohibition has had in this is a matter for the earnest consideration of its advocates. Prohibitory liquor laws that stimulate the manufacture and consumption of whisky at the expense of milder liquors are a failure.

From Washington.

(Correspondence of the Alexandria Gazette.)
Washington, Dec. 14.

That the greatest evil existing today to the American people is the racing handbook and pool rooms was the testimony presented today to the Senate committee on the judiciary by Henry Brodsky, a reformed gambler and bookmaker, who appeared to urge favorable action on the bill introduced by Senator Barrett prohibiting the transmission over interstate telegraph wires of racing information. The hearing was under the auspices of the Reformers' Convocation, which is now meeting here. Several other speakers against race track gambling were heard.

Secretary Wilson this morning denied the newspaper reports that he was to be succeeded next January by Wm. O. Thompson, of Ohio, as secretary of Agriculture.

Diplomats were presented this morning by Secretary of Agriculture Wilson to four boys, representing Virginia, South Carolina, Mississippi and Arkansas, as winners of the crop growing contest of the Southern Boys' Corn Club.

Arguments are today being presented to the U. S. Supreme Court in the complicated litigation between the state of West Virginia and Henry O. King, involving title to thousands of acres in that state. A formidable array of counsel spoke on each side. King claims a vast acreage of land under the Robert Morris grant made back in revolutionary times.

The capture of Rama by the forces of President Zelaya is apparently, as is reported at Managua, according to dispatch received today at the State Department. It is also said that the Zelaya army in beginning the action violated the armistice with the Estrada forces. Further than this no information has been received at the department indicating accurately whether or not hostilities have begun. A dispatch from Bluefields received at the department today says that the forces of Zelaya near Rama came to a decisive battle. "Zelaya does not want a fight. We will take the aggressive. Our forces are very strong." The above cablegram was received today by Senator Castillo, agent of the Nicaraguan revolutionary government at Washington from Diaz, Estrada's minister of state. The Navy Department was today advised of the arrival at Corinto, of the Yorktown and Albany.

There will be no ship subsidy bills considered by the port committee of the House until after the holidays. This announcement was made after the committee met today. Every foreign born soldier in the U. S. army will be granted citizenship papers after an honorable discharge, if a bill introduced in the House today by Representative Howland (rep., Ohio), becomes a law. The law will, if passed, also apply to the children of such soldiers.

As a substitute for a ship subsidy bill, Representative Borland, (dem., Mo.) introduced a bill in the House today providing that all foreign goods coming to this country in American ships shall be granted a 25 per cent reduction from the ordinary tariff duties.

The comptroller of the currency today announced that the Farmers' National Bank, of Tulsa, Okla., had been taken in charge by a national bank examiner because of alleged insolvency. For the first time in history the secretary of war's estimate presented to the military affairs committee of the House has been deemed too small. The committee today completed consideration of the army bill and added \$524,640 to Mr. Dickinson's estimate of \$94,799,067.

Secretary Nagel today received a letter from the Turkish legation asking co-operation of the department in securing a number of citizens of independent means to act as consular agents in this country for Turkey. No salary will be attached. The letter explains that the Turkish government is anxious to secure more American trade and wants additional consuls to inform them of opportunities.

The Argentine government has decided to erect a special building for American exhibitors at the railway exposition which is to be held in that city next summer. The space applied for by the American manufacturers is so great that a special building is essential.

W. K. Wallace, charge of the American legation at Copenhagen, represented the United States at the funeral of Princess Marie, wife of Prince Waldemar, brother of the king, which took place today.

So many complaints have reached the Interstate Commerce Commission from New York regarding the lightering charge that today it was decided to make a thorough investigation of the whole subject.

THE STORM YESTERDAY.

A heavy easterly gale, driving snow, sleet, rain and fog before it, seriously impeded harbor traffic in New York yesterday, stalled many draft teams, seriously delayed surface transit lines, and almost paralyzed communication by wire with other cities. At 6 p. m. but one wire was open into Washington. Chicago and Pittsburgh could be reached only intermittently, and Buffalo, Rochester and other cities of northern and western New York received their dispatches only by frequent relays. A severe sleet and wind storm crippled wire communication east of Pittsburgh, Pa., yesterday.

Already several deaths have been reported from western Pennsylvania, and the damage is expected to be heavy. From 9 a. m. until nearly noon it was impossible to get through to the east by wire. After that time, however, a few wires were brought into some kind of working condition. The seat of the storm, apparently, is in the Allegheny mountains. In that vicinity the heavy snow, sleet and wind was of great violence. Wires, fences and barns were leveled by the elements. At Ebensburg, Latrobe and Greensburg deaths resulted from the wind and cold.

News of the Day.

Former Senator James A. Hemenway, of Indiana, has resigned as expert in the employ of the Senate committee on public expenditures and will again enter the political arena the first opening that presents itself.

Representative Gardner, of Massachusetts, stated yesterday that he had practically abandoned any further effort during this Congress for a change in the rules of speakership.

It is reported that Secretary James Wilson, of the Department of Agriculture, is to retire about January 1, and is to be succeeded by William O. Thompson, president of the Ohio State University.

Two hundred and seventy-six marines from Norfolk, Washington, and Annapolis passed through Baltimore today on their way to the League Island navy yard at Philadelphia, to set sail for Nicaragua late this afternoon.

A disastrous fire occurred Sunday night in the city of Valdivia, Chile. Eighteen blocks of buildings were destroyed and thousands rendered homeless. The loss is estimated at about \$2,500,000.

George S. Nash, of New York, the star of "The Harvest Moon" Theatrical Company, and Miss Julia F. D. Hay, daughter of the late Edwin B. Hay, of Washington, were quietly married in Providence, R. I., on Sunday.

Among the bills introduced in the Senate yesterday were: To suppress white slave traffic; to make wise description a misdemeanor in the District of Columbia; for the popular election of senator and to prohibit the sale of liquor on any government reservation.

Miss Anne Morgan, daughter of J. Pierpont Morgan, is a recent applicant for membership in the Woman's Trades Union League in New York, and when her name has been passed upon she will become a regular member, paying \$1 a year, which is the fee. This is the league to which the striking shirtwaist makers belong.

The body of an unidentified eight-year-old girl was found in an unadorned well on the farm of J. F. Harrington, seven miles south of Sandusky, Ohio, yesterday. It is believed the little girl may have been a member of a band of gypsies who were encamped near the Harrington farm last summer. An investigation is being made by the coroner.

Cuba will be asked by the United States to pay the bill of \$5,000,000 or \$6,000,000 that the last military occupation of the island by this country cost as soon as the Cuban treasury is in condition to stand the shock. That is what Secretary of War Dickinson told the House military affairs committee yesterday at the hearing on the army bill, but he will not press the claim.

While his daughter Lucy held his arms behind him so that he could not shoot, Oliver O. Ulmer was probably fatally stabbed by Benjamin Bruster at Butler, Ala., yesterday. The affair was the result of a feud Ulmer was bent on revenge. The body of his son was found on Bruster's doorstep last Monday, the young man having been killed, it is said, because of a love affair with a daughter of the Bruster clan.

A report on steamer conditions, based on information obtained by special agents of the immigration commission traveling as steamer passengers on the different transatlantic steamers, was made public yesterday through presentation to the Senate, with recommendations for legislation to better conditions. Conditions found on many of these vessels are described as appalling. Women are insulted and shockingly mistreated and the immigrants are treated little better than cattle.

President and Mrs. Taft went shopping in New York yesterday with a heavy police and secret service guard. The president spoke last night at a mass-meeting in Carnegie Hall in celebration of the diamond jubilee of the Methodist Episcopal Mission in Africa, and defended the property and the right of this country to say what should be done by other countries in reference to their internal affairs, when that internal government passes the bounds of what Americans think is civilization.

Watching over the bodies of her father and mother were sleep, Mary Flynn, 20 years old, and said to be feeble minded, was found in a cold room in the Flynn home in Cambridgeport, Mass., yesterday. The only traces of food in the house were a few tea grounds in a cup. "Dead from privation" was the verdict of the medical examiner. He said that the couple, each of whom was 60 years of age, had been dead for several days.

The report is current in Managua, Nicaragua, that there has been a severe engagement near Rama between the government troops, commanded by General Vazquez, and the revolutionists, with heavy loss of life. There has also been a report that Rama has been captured by the Zelaya forces, but this is not confirmed. According to the dispatches, the revolutionists claim that they were attacked in violation of the armistice, but this is not believed. There is no confirmation of the report that United States marines had been fired upon by Zelaya forces at Bluefields.

Capt. Thomas Franklin, U. S. A., twice commended by Gen. Chaffee and Gen. Oils for distinguished service in China and at Manila, pleaded guilty in New York yesterday to a long series of petty embezzlements from the mess fund of the West Point cadets as commissary and treasurer of the United States Military Academy, and was sentenced by Judge Hand, in the United States circuit court, to two years and six months in the federal penitentiary at Alcatraz, Cal. His counsel gave notice that he would apply for a writ of error and review.

Rev. A. J. Smith, for 20 years identified with the Methodist Episcopal Church South, of West Virginia, was killed yesterday by being struck by a Chesapeake and Ohio train near Kellogg, 8 miles west of Huntington, W. Va. Rev. Mr. Smith left Huntington yesterday morning for his home in Wayne county. At Kellogg he stepped from an electric car directly in front of a fast express. His head was almost severed. Mr. Smith was 63 years old and leaves a wife and three children. He was prominent in Masonic circles and a brother of Rev. H. M. Smith, presiding elder of Huntington district Methodist Episcopal Church South.

The Market.
Georgetown, D. C., Dec. 14, Wheat 102-117

Today's Telegraphic News

Operation Performed on Leopold.
Brussels, Dec. 14.—An official bulletin issued at 11 o'clock this morning says that King Leopold was successfully operated upon by Doctors Thibaut, Sienon and Delage. The operation was performed at 10 o'clock. The physicians say that the king has a bare chance of recovery. They base their hope on the fact that no tumor was found in the intestines, the operation being for a simple intestinal obstruction.

The king passed a good night and faced the operation bravely until the doctors prepared to administer the anesthetic, when he showed great agitation. In their efforts to calm the aged ruler the physicians assured him that the operation would not be at all dangerous, though it is known that they entered upon the work fearful that the king would succumb during its performance.

The only member of the king's household who was permitted to see him immediately preceding the operation was his favorite daughter, the Princess Clementine. The princess bravely comforted her father but the moment she left him, she swooned and was revived with difficulty.

Despite the encouragement held out by the physicians, the public believes that the operation will furnish but temporary relief and that Leopold will never leave "The Palace," a small pavilion near the deserted castle, where he has been living since the sale of the palace furniture and works of art. "The Palace" is the home of Baroness Vaughan, whose relations with Leopold have been the scandal of European royalty for years.

The baroness has temporarily withdrawn from the house, on the request, it is understood, of Cardinal Mercier, who yesterday administered the last sacrament to the king.

The king held a brief conference yesterday evening with General Wablis, governor of the Belgian Congo. It is expected that in this interview, the king, believing himself facing immediate death, expressed regret at the course he had pursued in the Congo.

"If my life should be spared," he is reported to have said, "I shall try to make amends for whatever wrongs have been committed there."

Brussels, Dec. 14.—At five o'clock this afternoon, King Leopold seemed to be gaining in strength.

Killed in a Collision.

Erie, Pa., Dec. 14.—Three Italian laborers are dead today, seven persons are lying seriously injured in St. Vincent's Hospital, though none is believed fatally hurt, and eleven others were taken to Buffalo suffering from minor hurts as a result of a rear-end collision between the Twentieth Century Limited and the Chicago to Boston special on the Lake Shore Railroad, near Northeast, six miles east of here last night. The wreck occurred during a raging snow storm. All of the dead and injured were passengers on the Boston train.

Near Northeast the Boston flyer had come almost to a stop behind the freight. The Century was bowling along at close to high speed. The snow obscured the rear signal lights of the flyer and the Century plowed into her. The flyer carried a smoker as the tail coach. It was splintered. It was in this car that the dead and injured were riding.

Conditions in Nicaragua.

Bluefields, via wireless to Colon, Dec. 14.—A battle between the government and revolutionary forces at Recreo, 12 miles from Rama and at the head of navigation of the Mico river, is momentarily expected. Tired of waiting for an attack from Zelaya's troops, Provisional President Estrada has taken the initiative and with the strongest revolutionary army that it is possible to muster at this time he is preparing to strike what is hoped will prove a decisive blow.

New Orleans, Dec. 14.—Private dispatches from Panama, apparently authentic, declare that General Morales has declared in favor of Provisional President Estrada of Nicaragua, asserting that the yoke of Zelaya is that of a tyrant and no longer to be borne. With all his forces he has marched against Rivas. He has already captured Orizaba and Suppos, small places near the Costa Rican border.

New Orleans, La., Dec. 14.—A cable from Greytown, Nicaragua, apparently authentic, says Managua, the capital, is in the hands of a mob today. Men, women and children are parading the streets cheering for "liberty, Estrada and the United States."

The President in Connecticut.

New York, Dec. 14.—President Taft and his party left for New Haven at eleven o'clock today where he will attend the meeting of the Yale Corporation. The president had planned to leave at nine o'clock, but having been up late last night to address a meeting at the Bowery Mission, following his address at Carnegie Hall, he changed his plans for the early start. Mrs. Taft remained here to complete her Christmas shopping as the guest of her brother-in-law, Henry W. Taft.

New Haven, Dec. 14.—President Taft reached this city at one o'clock this afternoon. He was accorded a hearty reception.

Tonight's banquet will be preceded by a formal reception, at which the president will meet the members and guests of the Chamber of Commerce.

The president will leave for Washington at midnight.

Seven Persons Lose Their Lives at a Fire.

Cincinnati, Ohio, Dec. 14.—Seven persons were killed and three are dying, while twelve others were injured in a fire which destroyed a four-story tenement house on east Third street early today. The building was a death-trap. The only fire escape was rendered useless by the flames and the emergency doors, supposed to lead to safety and ordered to be kept open by the fire department, were nailed shut. When firemen chopped them down they found the passage way blocked with charred bodies. The fire was caused by a lamp being overturned during a brawl between second floor boarders. Griest is said to have been the man who started the death.

Death yesterday removed what is said to have been the only case of leprosy in the United States army, when First Sergeant O. O. Mix, of the 721 company, Coast Artillery, died in his lonely cottage on the Fort Screven reservation near Savannah.

War Council.

London Dec. 14.—A war council presided over by the kaiser and called by him to consider the probability of an early conflict with England was held last night at the home of Foreign Secretary Von Schoen in Berlin, according to the Mail's Berlin correspondent. That the council was suddenly decided upon, and is therefore of utmost significance is shown by the fact that Von Schoen had invited 26 members of the Reichstag to dine with him last night, but at the last moment received word that the kaiser was coming for a conference. Von Schoen was forced to cancel his dinner. The Morgen Post of Berlin gives the meeting the importance of a war council and says it is interpreted in Berlin as due to the recent signs of hostility shown by England toward Germany. The whole trend of the council, it is declared, was to determine how quickly Germany could prepare herself for a conflict with England, indicating that the kaiser believes England is preparing for an early hostile move.

A dispatch from Berlin denies that the dinner had any significance, and that the correspondents were suffering from a misapprehension.

Bishops Appointed.

Rome, Dec. 14.—Rev. James O'Reilly of Chicago was today appointed Bishop of Fargo, S. D., and Rev. M. E. Fallon, of Buffalo, Bishop of London, Canada. The appointments were made on the recommendation of the consistory congregation, and will take effect at once.

Wheat and Corn.

Chicago, Dec. 14.—Wheat and corn furnished more fire works in the grain pit today. Both shot up at the opening above yesterday's close, but the prices of both grains crumbled rapidly under the selling attack by the bears. Wheat had lost more than two cents at noon, while corn prices dropped nearly three cents. The trading was enormous and attended with a good deal of excitement among the brokers. December wheat opened at 114½, after closing yesterday at 112½. December corn, which closed yesterday at 64½, dropped this morning from 64½.

New York Stock Market.

New York, Dec. 14.—Heavy selling by one of the room traders caused a reaction in the industrial after the first few minutes of trading and a general drop followed. This was on a routine, however, and the tone at the end of the hour was again strong. Although there was some pressure by the trading element on a few issues the market tone held strong through the late forenoon.

Sixty-first Congress.

(Second Session)

SENATE.
The Senate was not in session today.

HOUSE.
Congress will adjourn for the holidays on December 21. A resolution introduced by Representative Payne, the republican House leader, provides that both houses shall stand adjourned from December 21 to January 4 at noon.

In accordance with the suggestion in President Taft's annual message, a resolution was introduced this afternoon by Mr. Taylor looking to an exposition in 1913 to celebrate the semi-centennial anniversary of the issuance of the emancipation proclamation.

Speaker Cannon announced the appointment of the following members of the House as regents of the Smithsonian Institution: Messrs. Dalzell, Mann and Howard.

"War is inevitable," declared Congressman Richmond P. Hobson, the hero of Santiago, in a speech delivered on "The Philosophy of Naval Policy of the United States," delivered in the House today. He advocated the building of six battleships a year. The minimum basis of the naval strength of this country, Mr. Hobson said, must be a navy equal to the combined navies of Germany and Japan. The true policy, he said, should be to have the United States strength 20 per cent above that of these combined navies. Mr. Hobson believes the United States will eventually have trouble with Japan.

Among the bills introduced were measures increasing the pay of rural free delivery letter carriers.

Mr. Griest, would establish city mail delivery in every city of 1,000 inhabitants.

On motion of Mr. Payne, the House, in committee of the whole, sent the annual message of the president piecemeal to the various committees of the House for consideration.

The House at 2:47 adjourned till tomorrow.

OBJECTS TO NEGRO JURORS.

If assurance is given him that he will have a fair trial, and that negroes will not be drawn on the jury, Judge Samuel Williams, attorney general-elect of Virginia, will return to Welch, W. Va., to answer to a charge of felonious assault upon former Judge Saunders, of the Supreme Court of West Virginia.

Judge Williams struck his fellow jurist with an ink well during a quarrel in a courtroom at Welch several months ago, and he has been indicted and a requisition has been issued for him by Governor Glasscock. After a conference with his counsel in Roanoke Sunday night, Judge Williams returned to his home at Wytheville yesterday determined, it is said, not to resist extradition unless the report that he would suffer bodily injury at the hands of the people of Welch if he returned there is confirmed.

TELEGRAPHIC BREVITIES.

Col. Gethals, in command of the Panama Canal construction, has held up a shipment of cartridges consigned to President Zelaya of Nicaragua. The cartridges arrived at Colon on the Prince Joachim and were unloaded there preparatory to being shipped across the isthmus.

A detective left New York today for Greenwich, Conn., with a warrant for the arrest of George F. Sheldon, former head of Phoenix Fire Insurance Company, of Brooklyn, who has been indicted for grand larceny in connection with his administration affairs in the insurance company.

Mrs. Maggie Hunter, who was beaten and left for dead at the same time that Mrs. Eliza Gribble and her daughter, Mrs. Carrie Ohlander, were murdered at their home in Savannah, Friday, died of her injuries yesterday. Although she had regained consciousness several times since the tragedy, the woman never had been able to give a coherent story of the crime. J. O. Hunter, the husband of the dead woman, whom she accused, in an incoherent statement last Saturday, of having assaulted her is being held by the police. Despite the woman's statement that Hunter committed the attack, the police are continuing the search for the negro who was seen entering the Gribble home shortly before the murders were discovered.

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Virginia News.

Marriage licenses were issued in Washington yesterday to Richard Skidmore and Mollie Stevens, both of King George county, and to Alton A. Davis and Elsie L. Perry, both of Prince William county.

A fine macadam road about 10 miles long and to cost \$45,000 per mile over the Blue Ridge Mountains and connecting the valley and eastern part of Virginia is projected by the people in the Wytheboro section.

Present plans of the Virginia republicans are to run Patrick McNeill, assistant postmaster of Lynchburg, and a former republican candidate for governor, against Representative Carter Glass, of the Sixth district, next year.

Mr. Thomas F. Ryan has bought a lot of thoroughbred horses and it is believed that he will engage in racing next season. A track has been built at Oak Hill, his country estate, in Nelson county.

Creditors have instituted proceedings in the Law and Equity Court against the Richmond and Henrico Railway Company, charging that its organization was fraudulent, and asking that it be thrown into the hands of a receiver.

Will Chandler, the negro charged with having attempted to criminally assault Miss Maggie Ingram, daughter of J. W. Ingram, was acquitted at Danville yesterday, although the girl identified him. The evidence of other witnesses was conflicting.

Mrs. Josephine K. Eversich, who thrice shot her husband at their home at Newport News on July 25 because he insisted on playing the graphophone when she wanted to sleep, was indicted by the grand jury yesterday and the trial is set for Wednesday.

Bishop Coadjutor Arthur S. Lloyd, of the Episcopal Church, preached in St. George's Church, Fredericksburg, Saturday at the morning service and in Trinity Church at night. He confirmed 10 candidates at St. George's and four at Trinity.

The state finance committee is in session in Rich proportioning state institutions. Appropriation will not be made some long to equal meet in the

Thomas B. arrested in Richmond on a charge of vagrancy, yesterday startled the police court when he declared that he was 125 years old, had enjoyed a personal acquaintance with Gen. George Washington, president of the United States, and remembered distinctly the incident of the falling stars. The court sent the old negro to the City House, where he will be cared for the rest of his days.

Governor Swanson is to be asked for a stay of execution in the case of Howard Little, ex-United States deputy marshal, under sentence to die in the electric chair at Richmond on January 7 next for the murder of Mrs. Betsy Jasty, George Meadows, his wife and three children, in the Justice home in Buchanan county last September. Little was convicted of the crime at Grand jury some weeks ago and was rushed to Roanoke jail for safekeeping. He is now in the Roanoke prison.

At the last meeting of Petersburg city council a resolution was adopted providing for the appointment of a special committee of three councilmen and two aldermen to inquire into the expediency of instituting proceedings looking toward the annexation to the city of Petersburg of the town of Ettrick and other portions of Chesterfield county adjoining Petersburg. The aldermen last night after some discussion, voted against the adoption of the resolution. Ettrick is located in Chesterfield county just across the river from Petersburg, and has 1,000 inhabitants.

DIED.

At her home, 717 Ninth street, N. W., Washington, D. C., December 13, 1909, MARY YOUNG, beloved wife of George A. Young. En. ent. Thursday, December 16, at 10 a. m., from St. Patrick's Church, Washington. Relatives and friends invited. Funeral Thursday morning at 9 o'clock from the residence of Mr. T. Alton Moore, 419 south Lee street, thence to St. Mary's Church. Friends of the family are invited to attend.

MR. CRITTENTON'S WILL.

The will of Charles N. Crittenton, the wholesale druggist of New York, and founder of the Florence Crittenton missions for women, girls and children, who died in California on November 16, was filed for probate in that city yesterday.

It leaves half the entire residuary estate for the benefit of the missions and divides a large part of the other half among eight old employees, most of whom are now officers of Mr. Crittenton's firm, the O. N. Crittenton Company.

It is said that the estate is between \$3,000,000 and \$5,000,000, and that the gifts of Mr. Crittenton to his employees are worth at least \$200,000.

Out of one part of his residuary estate the testator directs that bequests of between \$500 and \$1,000 each be made to nephews and nieces. He gives his brother, William M. Crittenton, who lives in the Bronx, only \$1,000.

Mr. Crittenton divides 400 shares of stock in the Crittenton Company among eight of the employees, provided they are still with the firm. Concerning this bequest, Mr. Crittenton says:

"I make the bequests not only as a token of my appreciation of past services, but for the purpose of inducing new interest in the welfare of the company after my death."

To all men employees who have been with the Crittenton Company for more than ten years the testator leaves \$5,000 to be divided according to the salaries last year. Those who have been with the firm more than five years divide \$2,000 equally. To all the women employees the testator leaves \$3,000 in proportion to their salaries.